

City of Newport Beach

Newport Beach City Arts Commission January 8, 2009 – 5:00pm Central Library Friends Room

Convened at 5:05pm

Call To Order and Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Robert Smith
Wendy Brooks
Kirwan Rockefeller, Vice Chair
Robyn Grant, Chair
Gil Lasky
Rita Goldberg

Commissioners Absent: Gerald Allison

Staff Present: Cynthia Pirtle, Library Services Director; Jana Barbier, Staff
Liaison, Cultural Arts Coordinator

Public Present: None

Public Comments: Arts Commission Chair Grant wished everyone a happy new year. Commissioner Rockefeller expressed his sincere thanks to Robyn and David Grant on behalf of the entire Arts Commission for hosting a holiday party at their home.

Approval of Minutes: It was MSP (Rockefeller/Brooks) to approve the October 6, 2008 minutes.

New Business: Rockefeller noted that all commissioners are invited to “Sneak Previews” at UCI, a film series, Monday nights on Feb. 2, Feb 9, February 23 and March 2. Rockefeller would send specifics on the series to interested parties.

Wendy Brooks had been in touch with Dr. Burton Karson, CEO of Baroque Music Festival. Brooks had many suggestions for the festival.

Continued Business:

Staff Report /Correspondence - Staff report and correspondence were reviewed and filed.

Staff gave a brief update on the state of the McFadden engravings. There was a clarification required on the dates for the OC Juried Show (Sunday, March 29) and on the times for the Concerts in the Parks (6:00 – 7:30pm).

Commissioner Grant reminded everyone to sign up on the City website for email blasts.

Committee Updates:

Fine Arts Committee – Commissioner Rockefeller thanked Grant for her email reminding everyone to attend Evelyn Morris' reception on Monday, January 12 and staff for installing the show.

Grant and Rockefeller updated the committee on what to expect during the 2009 Orange County Artist Juried Exhibition and asked everyone to arrive by 8:30-9:00am. Discussion ensued as to the number of art "works" that would be allowed for the exhibition at the selected location. It was decided that the Fine Arts Committee should set up a meeting to coordinate the event. It was suggested that a notation about prepaying for the event be added to the entry form; staff was to check on adding that addition.

Performing Arts Committee – Commissioner Goldberg updated the committee on the two concert's specifics for summer '09. The committee was planning a Broadway-tunes type of show on Sunday July 19th at Mariner's Park and The Susie Hansen Latin Band on Sunday, August 23rd. Discussion ensued regarding the availability of Newport Coast Ridge Park, and Eastbluff Park. Goldberg asked staff to check on a reservation at Bonita Canyon Sports Park for the August 23 concert.

Library Services Director Cynthia Pirtle noted that management was expecting record crowds at free events this summer.

Goldberg stated that the two Shakespearean plays had been selected and that she would update the committee on the status of those performances in February. She noted also that the commission would consider a Pacific Symphony summer concert in 2010.

Cultural Arts Center – Commissioner Brooks stated that she had spoken with Council people at the boat parade on her idea of a cultural arts center. Grant thanked Wendy and noted that the Arts Commission had not been formally approached for assistance with that idea. Grant suggested that the Arts Commission limit the amount of discussion on just what will be in City Hall.

Cynthia Pirtle updated the commission about the City's plans to build City Hall, and how it will impact the library. She noted the excitement about the building and arts opportunities that may come up, in places such as the walkway between City Hall and the Library. She noted that she was a strong supporter of the arts and would represent Arts Commission questions with City Council and staff.

Arts Foundation Liaison Committee – Nothing to report

Art in Public Places/Historical Preservation Committees - Commissioner Smith stated that he had been researching organizations that supply artwork in gratis, as saleable works.

He discussed a 35-acre site in New Jersey for sculpture. The director would be willing to loan bronze art to Newport Beach. Commissioner Smith provided a letter from Paula A Stoeke, Curator of The Sculpture Foundation, and asked that it be included in the monthly board packet. Smith also brought a Balboa Theater, "Season without Walls" brochure for the commission.

Commissioner Smith also updated the Arts Commissioners on the status of the Mariners Medical Arts Building. As per his request, he is being briefed by the City's Planning Dept. staff regarding this matter.

Before going to commissioner announcements Chair Robyn Grant reviewed requests for involvement with particular events, including: Rita Goldberg, Imagination Celebration; Robyn Grant, Juried Art Exhibition; Robert Smith, funding public art projects; Kirwan Rockefeller, supporting Newport Beach arts organizations; Gil Lasky, researching museum tours.

Commissioner Announcements: None

Future Agenda Items: None

It was MSP (Lasky/Rockefeller) to adjourn the meeting.
Adjournment: 6:41p.m.